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*Documents Illustrative of the Canadian Constitution.* Edited, with notes and appendixes, by WILLIAM HOUSTON, M.A. Toronto, Carswell & Co., 1891.—338 pp.

This book is chiefly useful for the convenient form in which it presents documents leading up to and embodied in the present constitution of the Dominion of Canada. The editor says in his preface :

I have made no attempt to interpret the documents here collected. Mine was the humbler but infinitely more useful task, to see that the texts were as correct as possible, and to give in form of notes such historical information and references as would tend to lighten the labors of the student, without supplying him with ready-made opinions.

It might appear from this that the editor had sought out original manuscripts where they existed and from them had carefully prepared his copy. This, indeed, would have been a very useful task ; but from an inspection of the book it does not appear that the editor's eye passed over the original manuscripts in a single instance, nor does he disclose that he made any particular effort in this direction. His sources for the documents published are chiefly reprints of official publications. However, as very few serious questions in Canadian constitutional history turn on disputed readings, the matter of texts is of little importance.

Mr. Houston opens with an introductory chapter on the method of studying history in general and Canadian constitutional history in particular. He advocates the study of the documents themselves, without the aid, or as he would call it, the interference of lectures. Next comes a chronological table of events in Canadian and United States history, and then follow the documents which form the principal part of the volume.

After extracts from the treaty of Utrecht, by which Canada was ceded by France to England in 1713, there follow in chronological order, 1749-1784, the documents which illustrate the representative institutions in the maritime provinces—Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. The next group presents the capitulations of Quebec and Montreal, and other papers relating to the establishment of English domination over the Canadian provinces ; the Quebec Act of 1774, erecting the English possessions into a province, with the subsequent acts supplementary thereto ; the Constitutional Act of 1791, separating these possessions into two provinces, Upper and Lower Canada, and supplementary acts ; and the Union Act of 1840, reuniting these two provinces. This takes us to the British North America Act of 1867, which, together with certain amendatory enactments, forms the present constitution of the Dominion of Canada. These acts are

accompanied by the texts of the commissions of the governors-general and royal instructions.

In an appendix are presented extracts from various treaties made by Great Britain relative to Canada, abstracts of papers on the boundaries of the various provinces, and numerous documents as to fisheries, the introduction of English law and trial by jury in Upper Canada, resolutions and despatches relative to political events in Canadian constitutional history, and a copy of the constitution of the United States, to which the present constitution of Canada bears a strong resemblance.

In beginning his collection with the establishment of English rule, Mr. Houston omits many interesting and valuable papers of the French régime whose effect can be traced in many of the existing institutions. The notes which have been placed at the end of some of the groups of documents show the source of the texts and explain obscurities, thus rendering much aid to the student of the subject.

THOMAS D. RAMBAUT.

*Black America: A Study of the Ex-Slave and his Late Master.*

By W. LAIRD CLOWES. London, Paris and Melbourne, Cassell & Co., 1891. — 8vo, xiii, 240.

This latest book upon the negro question is noteworthy mainly for two reasons: first, because it is a study of the question by a foreigner for the purpose of bringing one of the great questions of United States politics before the English public; and second, because, after a rather careful survey of the field, it proposes a radical solution, which has some good features. The book is mainly a reprint of a series of ten letters which appeared in the London *Times* about a year ago, written by a correspondent sent over to make a personal study.

Mr. Clowes treats his subject in six chapters. The first, entitled "The Black Belt," describes the general feeling on the negro question and gives the statistics of present population and the estimates for the future, in regions where the negro forms a conspicuous element. Chapter II, "The Ex-Slave as Master," contains an outline of the history of Reconstruction, written entirely from the standpoint of a Southern Democrat. The author's chief if not sole source of information on this subject seems to have been a book entitled *Why the Solid South? or Reconstruction and its Results*, written mainly by prominent Southern politicians. Hence many very important points in the history of the different phases of the negro question are entirely overlooked. In the chapter on "The Ex-Slave as he is," the author describes the Southern feeling toward the negro, the absolute suprem-